

BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – August 2, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor McDonald read the following statement into the record:

“The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231’ have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

Mayor McDonald let everyone in the flag salute.

Roll Call: Klimko, Heinrich, Noone, McDonald, Conry, Higgins, Thompson
Absent: None
Also Present: Ann Kilduff, Borough Clerk; Natasha Turchan, CFO; and Jasmine Lim, Interim Borough Manager

Mayor McDonald introduced Jasmine Lim to the audience and stated she will be in the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A motion was made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich, to receive and file the correspondence.

1. Request for handicapped parking from Kathleen Hammerstone
2. New Jersey Department of Transportation - Trust Fund Account – Delayed

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

As the request for the handicap parking space is on Route 57, Interim Manager Lim will contact the State regarding Ms. Hammerstone’s request.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting Minutes June 8, 2016

Motion was made by Conry, seconded by Noone, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of June 8, 2016.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

AUDIENCE:

Mayor McDonald opened up the audience portion for remarks, petitions, statements and testimony from guests.

Edna Detlefs – 27 Fisher Ave

Ms. Detlefs wished to thank the Department of Public Works for the work done on her road and for the friendly manner in which they did it.

Susan Sloan – 89 Grand Avenue

Mrs. Sloan addressed Council regarding a motor home parked on her road for the past month.

Reverend Bauknight – Mt. Pisgah Church

Reverend Bauknight stated it is difficult to hear Council while sitting in the audience. She spoke to the Mayor about meeting with Mr. Prater of JCP&L.

Justin Flynn – 117 Railroad Avenue

Mr. Flynn thanked Council for the draining grates on O’Shea Avenue and Fisher Avenue as it has been beneficial to his property.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich, to close the audience portion of the meeting. All were in favor.

REPORTS:

A motion was made by Heinrich, seconded by Noone, to receive and file the reports from the Road Department, Municipal Court, Recreation, and the Manager’s Personnel Report. All were in favor.

1. Warren County Health Department Report – July
2. Washington Township Police Department Report - June

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Higgins announced the next Streets and Sewer Committee Meetings will be held Monday at 5:30 pm at Borough Hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

ORDINANCES:

There were no Ordinances at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Noone, seconded by Conry, to approve the Special ABC License for the Washington Borough Fire Department during the Festival in the Borough to be held on September 24, 2016.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Higgins, Thompson)
Motion Carried.

Resolution #114-206 Establishing a Special Period for Third Quarter Local Property Taxes

RESOLUTION # 114-2016
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL
PERIOD FOR THIRD QUARTER LOCAL PROPERTY
TAXES IN THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, the printing and mailing of tax bills has been delayed beyond the N.J.S.A. 54:4-64 date of June 14th; and

WHEREAS, according to State Statute, taxes are due and payable February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 and these dates cannot be changed; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 allows the Borough Council to establish a grace period of 25 days from the date that tax bills are mailed; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington has historically given its taxpayers a grace period of 10 days for each tax period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington that the third quarter installment of current year taxes shall not be subject to interest until after August 29, 2016, the additional interest-free period authorized pursuant to R.S. 54:4-67. Any payment received on August 30, 2016 will be subject to interest charged back to the statutory date of August 1, 2016.

Resolution #114-2016 was moved on a motion by Noone, seconded by Conry, and approved.

Council Discussion:

N. Turchan explained the reason for the extended grace period for third quarter property taxes.

Ayes: 7; Nays 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #115-2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Borough of Washington
Resolution # 115-2016

WHEREAS the Borough of Washington, New Jersey, has experienced natural hazards that result in public safety hazards and damage to private and public property;

WHEREAS the hazard mitigation planning process set forth by the State of New Jersey and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the opportunity to consider natural hazards and risks, and to identify mitigation actions to reduce future risk;

WHEREAS the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is providing federal mitigation funds to support development of the mitigation plan;

WHEREAS a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) has been developed by the Mitigation Steering and Planning Committees;

WHEREAS the Hazard Mitigation Plan includes a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time, will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property, and

WHEREAS the draft plan was provided to each participating jurisdiction and was posted on the Warren County website so as to introduce the planning concept and to solicit questions and comments; and to present the HMP and request comments, as required by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington:

1. The Warren County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as submitted to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on April 29, 2016 by the Warren County Department of Public Safety/Office of Emergency Management is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Borough of Washington; minor revisions recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management may be incorporated without further action.
2. The Borough of Washington departments identified in the HMP are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended high priority activities that are assigned to their departments.
3. Any action proposed by the HMP shall be subject to and contingent upon budget approval, if required, which shall be at the discretion of the Mayor and Council, and this resolution shall not be interpreted so as to mandate any such appropriations.
4. The Warren County Deputy Public Safety Director and Deputy Office of Emergency Management Coordinator is designated to coordinate with other offices and shall periodically report on the activities, accomplishments, and progress, and shall prepare an annual progress report to be submitted to the Warren County Department of Public Safety/Office of Emergency Management. The status reports shall be submitted on a yearly basis by a predetermined date as agreed upon by all stakeholders.

Passed by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington this 2nd day of August 2016.

Resolution #115-2016 was moved on a motion by Conry, seconded by Thompson, and approved.

Ayes: 7; Nays 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #116-2016 Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND
APPROPRIATIONS NJSA 40A: 4-87**

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2016 in the sum of \$2,406.51 which is now available from the Statewide Insurance Fund, Risk Control Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$2,406.51 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Other Expenses – Risk Control Grant.

Resolution #116-2016 was approved on a motion by Noone, seconded by Conry, and approved.

ROLL CALL: Noone, Conry, Klimko, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson, McDonald
Ayes: 7; Nays 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #117-2016 Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND
APPROPRIATIONS NJSA 40A: 4-87**

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2016 in the sum of \$18,077.00 which is now available from the Warren County, DHS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$118,077.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Other Expenses – Municipal Alliance.

Resolution #117-2016 was approved on a motion by Noone, seconded by Conry, and approved.

ROLL CALL: Noone, Conry, Klimko, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson, McDonald
Ayes: 7; Nays 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #119-2016 Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations

RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS NJSA 40A: 4-87

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2016 in the sum of \$50,000.00 which is now available from the State of New Jersey, NJDOT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$50,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Other Expenses – Municipal Aid.

Resolution #119-2016 was approved on a motion by Noone, seconded by Conry, and approved.

ROLL CALL: Noone, Conry, Klimko, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson, McDonald

Ayes: 7; Nays 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #120-2016 Appointing Interim Manager

APPOINTING AN INTERIM BOROUGH MANAGER

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-94 permits the Borough to appoint an administrative officer of the Borough to the position of Manager in the event that the Manager is unable to perform his or her duties; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to appoint Jasmine Lim as the Borough's Interim Manager until such time as a permanent replacement for such positions can be found; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lim understands and agrees that the appointment is interim and shall not have any of the rights set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:69A-93; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Jasmine Lim is hereby appointed to the position of Interim Manager of the Borough of Washington until a permanent replacement can be found, such term not to exceed one hundred eighty four (184) days.

2. Jasmine Lim, as Interim Borough Manager, shall perform all of the duties of the Manager as set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:69A-95 and the Borough Code.

Resolution #120-2016 was approved on a motion by Noone, seconded by Conry, and approved.

Ayes: 7 Nays 0
Motion Carried.

Resolution #121-2016 Seeking Confirmation of Jones Act Sale

**SEEKING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION OF BID RECEIVED BY THE TAX
COLLECTOR ON THE ASSIGNMENT SALE OF BLOCK 94.01 LOT 07
CERTIFICATE #15-00042 MUNICIPAL HELD TAX SALE CERTIFICATE TO FWDSL
& ASSOCIATES LP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,000.00**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:5-114 et. seq. (hereinafter the "Jones Act") allows the Tax Collector to sell certain municipal held tax sale certificates at a public sale to the highest bidder for an amount that may be lower than the amount due on each such certificate of sale; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received bids on the Block 94.01 Lot 7 certificate # 15-00042 at the Assignment Sale dated July 29, 2016 in the amount of \$33,000.00 from FWDSL and Associates LP; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to resolution #R 93-2016, adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, the Tax Collector was authorized to hold a public sale of Block 94.01 Lot 7 Certificate 15-00042 Borough held liens; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is hereby charged with performing all notice requirements as per the Jones Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Jones Act the Assignment sale has been advertised in the Star Gazette on July 15th and July 22nd, 2016 as well as being posted in 5 public places in the Borough;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington that the bid obtained on the Block 94.01 Lot 07 in the amount of \$33,000.00 from FWDSL & Associates LP that the Tax Collector sold pursuant to the Jones Act be confirmed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution along with its attachment be filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

Resolution #121-2016 was approved on a motion by Conry, seconded by Heinrich, and approved.

Council Discussion:

N. Turchan explained a Jones Act Sale with regards to liens on a property.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Heinrich, Klimko, Noone, Higgins, Thompson, McDonald
Ayes: 7 Nays 0
Motion Carried

VOUCHERS:

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$936,523.60.

Motion made by Conry, seconded by Noone, to approve the vouchers.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Higgins questioned the self-watering planters being listed twice on the bills list. N. Turchan explained the money came from two different Grant accounts. Councilman Higgins questioned the 2nd Quarter Engineering Services. N. Turchan will look into this and email Council with a clarification.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Noone, Klimko, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson, McDonald
Ayes: 7; Nays 0; Abstentions: 2 (Higgins–Fire Only; Thompson–Fire/EMS only)
Motion Carried

RECAP:

The Interim Manager will contact the State regarding the handicap parking spot for Ms. Hammerstone.

Mayor McDonald will contact Mr. Prater regarding a meeting with Rev. Bauknight.

N. Turchan will email Council with clarification on the Engineer's bill.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Mayor McDonald reminded everyone National Night Out is tonight at Meadow Breeze Park and encouraged everyone to attend. The League Convention is coming up in Atlantic City. Mayor McDonald announced resident Emma Gray turns 100 years old today. A service was held at Mt. Pisgah Church where the Mayor presented her with a proclamation and where she also received a proclamation from the Church and letters from Senator Cory Booker and President Obama.

Councilman Higgins thanked N. Turchan for filling in as Interim Manager and welcomed J. Lim. He stated the Borough Engineer was in contact with the Co-op and work on the streets discussed will begin the end of August. Councilman Higgins wished Ms. Gray a Happy Birthday.

Councilwoman Klimko wished Ms. Gray a Happy Birthday. She thanked the Road Department for their work and mentioned the large amounts of garbage at the corner of Broad Street and Route 57. She noted there are thirteen trailers full of garbage in the lots behind the Get a Grip and the stain glass store as well as items left in the alley way. Maintenance needs to be done on Ray Rice's property. Councilwoman Klimko welcomed J. Lim to the Borough.

Councilman Thompson congratulated Ms. Gray, welcomed J. Lim, and thanked the DPW for their hard work during this hot weather.

Councilman Heinrich congratulated Ms. Gray, welcomed J. Lim, and thanked N. Turchan and Mayor McDonald for their extra work filling in during the past few weeks. He reminded everyone of the Senior Advisory Trip on December 3rd to Longwood Gardens.

Councilwoman Noone welcomed J. Lim and thanked N. Turchan and Mayor McDonald for their extra time spent helping the Borough.

Councilwoman Conry wished Ms. Gray a Happy Birthday, welcomed J. Lim, and thanked N. Turchan and Mayor McDonald. She would like someone to contact the railroad company regarding the overgrown bushes on Railroad Avenue and noted residents living in the apartments

on Railroad Avenue are dumping garbage on the corner. She would like a “One Way” sign to be placed when exiting Family Dollar. Councilwoman Conry thanked the DPW for all their work.

Mayor McDonald welcomed J. Lim and thanked N. Turchan for her help.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Conry, seconded by Klimko, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Mayor Scott McDonald

Ann Kilduff, RMC Borough Clerk